TL 2949

DECLARATION ON BEHALF OF EAST TIMOR

Recognising that the territory of East Timor has been illegally occupied by Indonesia since December 1975, inflicting extreme loss of life and destruction;

Recognising that the Indonesian policy to isolate East Timor prevents the ICRC and other relief and development agencies from reaching those in need, and denies the international community opportunities to assess the wishes of the people independently;

Condemning the human rights violations committed since 1975, as reported by Church leaders in East Timor and by independent human rights organisations;

Recognising that the East Timorese have been denied their right to self-determination;

Welcoming, finally, UN General Assembly Resolution 37/30 which asked the UN Secretary General "to initiate consultations with all parties directly concerned, with a view to exploring avenues for achieving a comprehensive settlement of the problem", and acknowledging the steps which have been taken to bring Portugal and Indonesia into negotiations;

WE AFFIRM that negotiations will not lead to a just settlement unless they:

1. Involve representatives of the East Timorese people including those who resist the present occupation;

2. Secure an end to hostilities which prevent the people of East Timor and their representatives from contributing freely to negotiations leading to self-determination;

3. Provide internationally acceptable conditions of access to relief and development agencies and to independent visitors, journalists and diplomats;

4. Include an act of self-determination, which is free from interference and verified by international observers acceptable to the East Timorese people.

We commend all international initiatives which observe these principles, and will call upon our government to support actively a process of negotiation conducted on such terms.

SIGNED: